

Message Text

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SUBJECT: US WESTERN EUROPEAN SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL EXCHANGES

REF: STATE 67701

1. SUMMARY REDUCTION OF US R&D FUNDING IS NOT A
SIGNIFICANT PROBLEM FOR US SPANISH SCIENTIFIC RELATIONS.
FOR THE PRESENT AND FORESEEABLE FUTURE, FUNDS AVAILABLE
UNDER THE 1976 TREATY APPEAR TO PROVIDE FOR AN ADEQUATE
LEVEL OF SCIENTIFIC RELATIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. REDUCTIONS IN US GOVERNMENT R&D MONEY ARE NOT A
PARTICULARLY RELEVANT PROBLEM FOR SPAIN, SINCE VERY LITTLE
US GOVERNMENT R&D MONEY IS OR HAS BEEN SPENT HERE.
THE ONLY RECENT SUCH INVOLVEMENT WE ARE AWARE OF CONSISTS OF A
FEW DOD AND HEW RESEARCH PROJECTS TOTALING NOT
MORE THAN \$50MPPP PER YEAR, IN SUCH AREAS AS MEDICINE
COMBUSTION, AND FLUID MECHANICS. THESE ARE DONE FOR US
BENEFIT ON A PURELY RESEARCH CONTRACT BASIS.

3. WITH THESE FEW EXCEPTIONS US SPANISH SCIENTIFIC RELATIONS RECEIVING
USG FUNDING ARE CONDUCTED UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE
1970 AGREEMENT OR 1976 TREATY OF FRIENDSHIP AND
COOPERATION.

4. UNDER THE 1970 AGREEMENT ABOUT \$2 MILLION OF US
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GOVERNMENT MONEY HAS BEEN COMMITTED ANNUALLY FOR
SUPPORT OF SPANISH SCIENCE. THIS WAS BY NO MEANS ALL
FOR D&D THE TOTAL BREAKS DOWN TO ABOUT \$1.5 MILLION
ANNUALLY FOR R&D RELATED PROJECTS (MAINLY FOR EQUIPMENT PROCUREMENT
AND COOPERATIVE RESEARCH PROJECTS UNDER US LEAD
AGENCIES), \$1PPMPPP FOR THE SCIENCE PORTION OF
FULBRIGHT AWARDS, AND \$400,000 FOR SCIENCE SCHOLARSHIPS

UNDER AGREEMENT SPONSORED EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL COOPERATION.

5. UNDER THE 1976 TREATY US GOVERNMENT SUPPORT FOR S&T COOPERATION WILL RISE TO \$4.6 MILLION ANNUALLY, PLUS A SMALL AMOUNT FROM FULBRIGHT HAYES, SCIENCE SCHOLARSHIPS UNDER E&C HAVE BEEN ELIMINATED.

6. THIS LEVEL OF FUNDING SHOULD CONTINUE TO PERMIT AN ADEQUATE LEVEL OF SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION BETWEEN SPAIN AND THE US. CONTACT BETWEEN AGENCIES AND RESEARCH INSTITUTION HAS BEEN REASONABLY FREQUENT AND CLOSE UNDER THE 1970 AGREEMENT, AND SHOULD IMPROVE WITH THE INCREASED MONEY UNDER THE 1976 TREATY.

7. WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT ANY SIGNIFICANT BENEFITS ARE LIKELY TO BE MISSED BY THE US AT CURRENT LEVELS OF FUNDING, TWO WAY FLOW OF SCIENTIST IS ALMOST A MISNOMER, SINCE VERY FEW US SCIENTISTS ARE INTERESTED IN WORKING IN SPAIN. US SPANISH ATTENDANCE AT CONFERENCES, SYMPOSIA, AND CONGRESSES BOTH HERE AND ELSEWHERE IS SUBSTANTIAL BUT VERY FEW OF THE CONTACTS MADE AT THESE MEETINGS LEAD TO DIRECT COOPERATION UNLESS US GOVERNMENT MONEY IS AVAILABLE INCREASING NUMBERS OF YOUNG SPANISH SCIENTISTS ARE RECEIVING GRADUATE AND POSTDOCTORAL TRAINING IN THE US WHILE THIS HAS LITTLE CURRENT SIGNIFICANCE FOR R&D OR SCIENTIFIC RELATIONS, THE POTENTIAL EFFECT OF THIS BUILD UP OF SPANISH CAPACITY FOR COOPERATION CAN ONLY BE FAVORABLE. STABLE

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